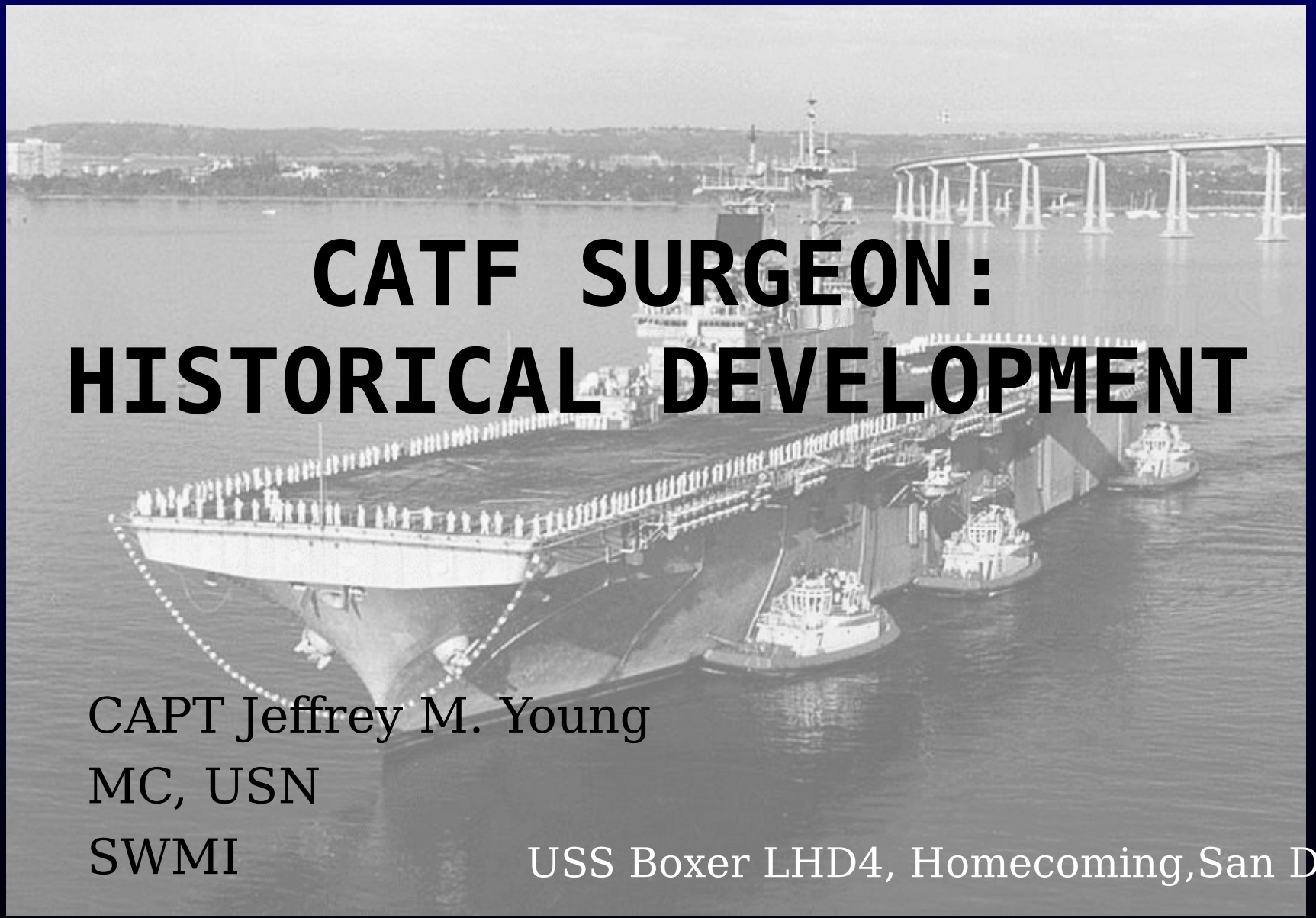


# CATF SURGEON: HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

CAPT Jeffrey M. Young
MC, USN
SWMI

USS Boxer LHD4, Homecoming,San Diego

# Objectives

- **Describe the evolution of ARG**
- **Describe the evolution of ARG Medical Departments.**
- **List the current tasks and responsibilities of a CATF Surgeon**
- **Describe the development and evolving role of the amphibious task force surgeon**

# What is a CATF?

- **ATF**

**Who is the CATF?**

# CATF -- Commodore

- 15-25 years experience
- Professional leader
- Decision Maker
- Responsible, Accountable
- Perceptive listener
- Preconceived opinion of Navy Medicine
- Human with a personality

# What is a CATF?

- **ATF**
- **ARG**

**Named for the Flag**

TARG
(TARAWA)

WARG
(WASP)

BARG
(BOXER)

# Evolution of the ARG

**SHIPS**

LPH + four

LHA / LHD + two

*the future*

***12 LHDs***

**+**

***12 LPD-17***

# Other Acromyms & shortcuts

- **ATF**
- **ARG**

- **CLF**
- **MEU Commander**
- **Phibron (Commodore)**

# Evolution of the Medical Dept

## Personnel

**Medical Officers**

- GMOs
- SMO Evolution
- LHA/LHD discrepancy

**Medical Augmentation Program**

"MAPsters"

# Evolution of the ARG Medical Dept

## Equipment

- Equipment
  - OR tables
  - Anesthesia equipment
  - Lab, blood bank
- MMART Blocks
- AMMAL
- Computers/networking Connectivity

Blood Deglycing Machines
USS ESSEX LHD 2

# Evolutions of the Medical Department

## Mission

- Changing Concepts of Amphibious Warfare (STOM, Maneuver Warfare, etc
- MOOTW
- Split-ARG Operations
- Joint Coalition Multinational Task Forces

# Comparison

## MMARTs & FSTs

| **Surgical MMART** | **Fleet Surgica** |
| --- | --- |
| Major Claimant: BUMED | Major Claimant: FLT |
| Additional Duty for members | Primary Duty for me |
| Hospital Based | CRTS / CPG Based<br>ADDU to Hospita |
| Real-World Events only<br>no exercises | Exercises and Training<br>as Real-World Ev |
| No UIC, not on SNDL | Has own UIC, listed on |

# FST Instruction

**CINCPAC/LANTFLT INST 5450.5**

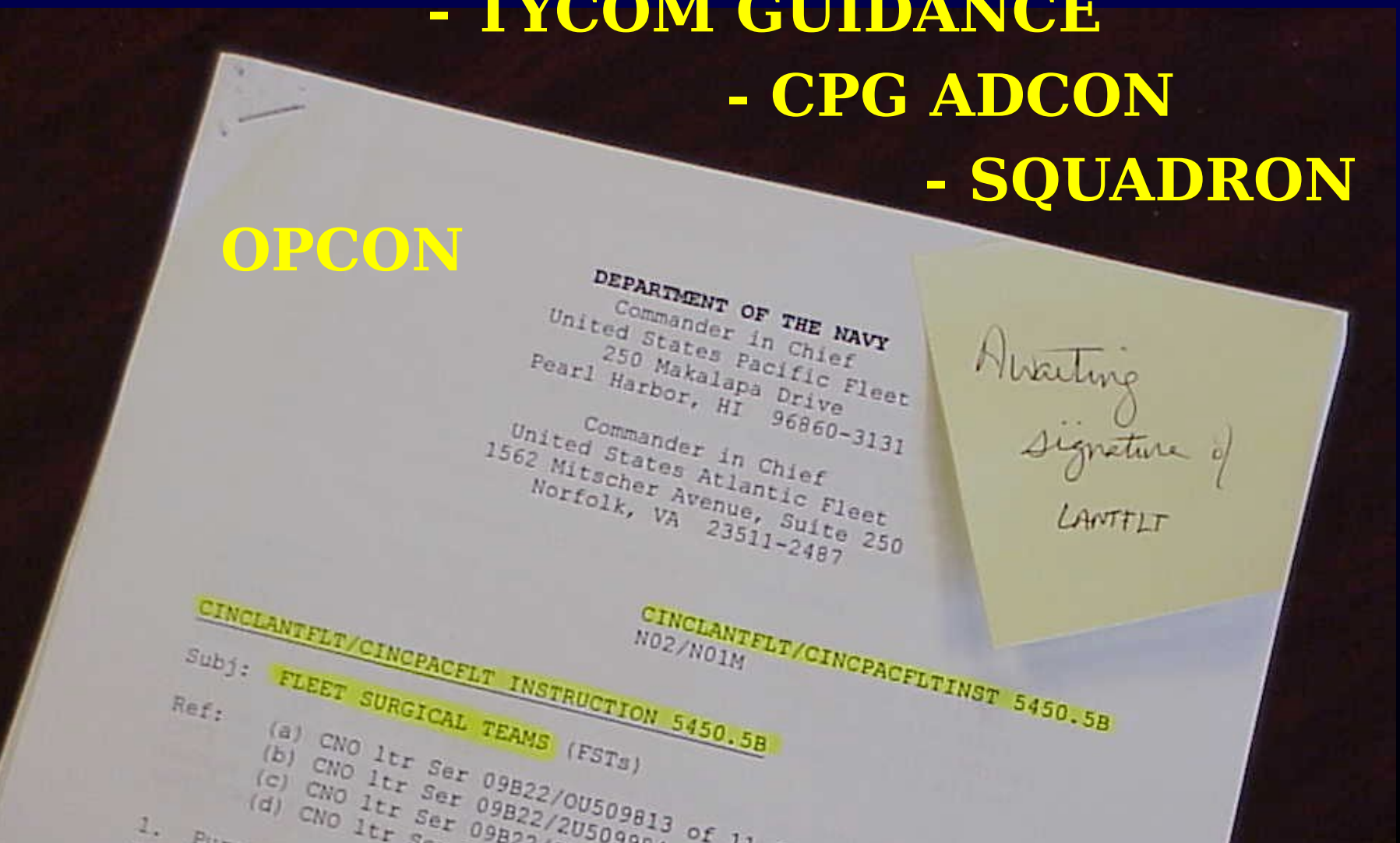
**- CINCPAC/LANTFLT ASSET**

**- TYCOM GUIDANCE**

**- CPG ADCON**

**- SQUADRON**

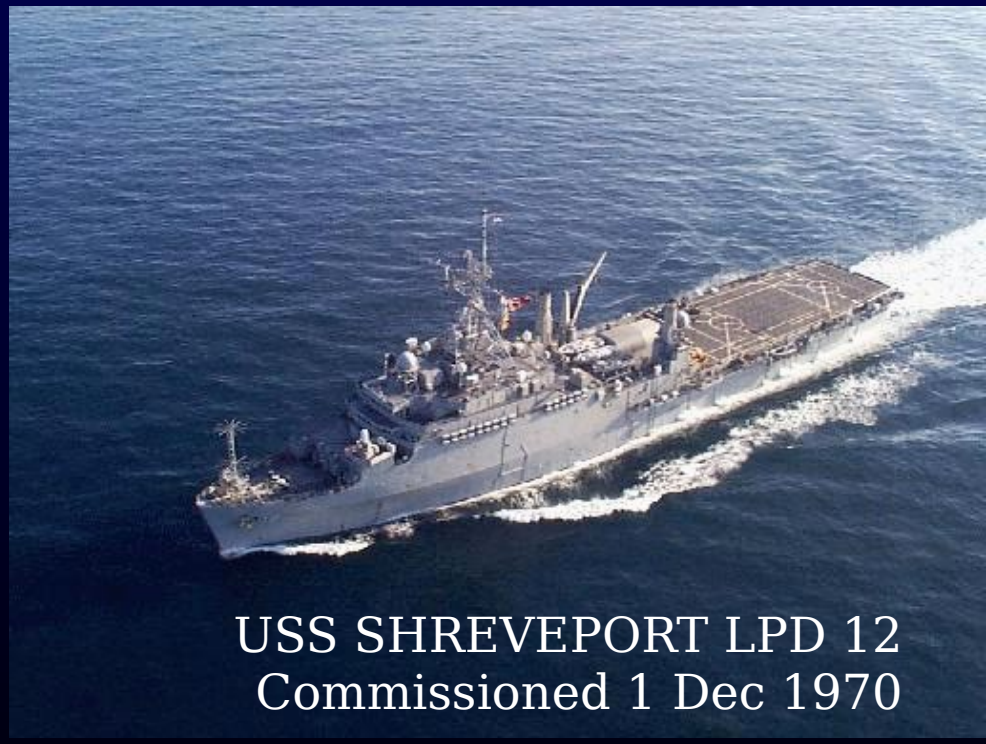
**OPCON**



# What do FST's do ?

# The Different Roles of the CATF Surgeon

- Physician
- Staff Advisor to the Commodore
- Senior Medical Authority Afloat
- OIC Fleet Surgical Team



USS SHREVEPORT LPD 12
Commissioned 1 Dec 1970

# Roles: Physician

- **Traditionally a Surgeon or Anesthesiologist**
- **More recently, all specialties**
- **Always a physician ??**

**(What does the Commodore want?)**

# Roles:
# Senior Medical Authority Afloat

- ARG Medical Director (DMS)
- Overall Supervisor of all Medical Officers assigned to the ARG
  - Ships' MO's
  - Marine Medical
  - FST
  - Augmentees
- Assures credentialing, PARS completion

# Oversight of Training, CME

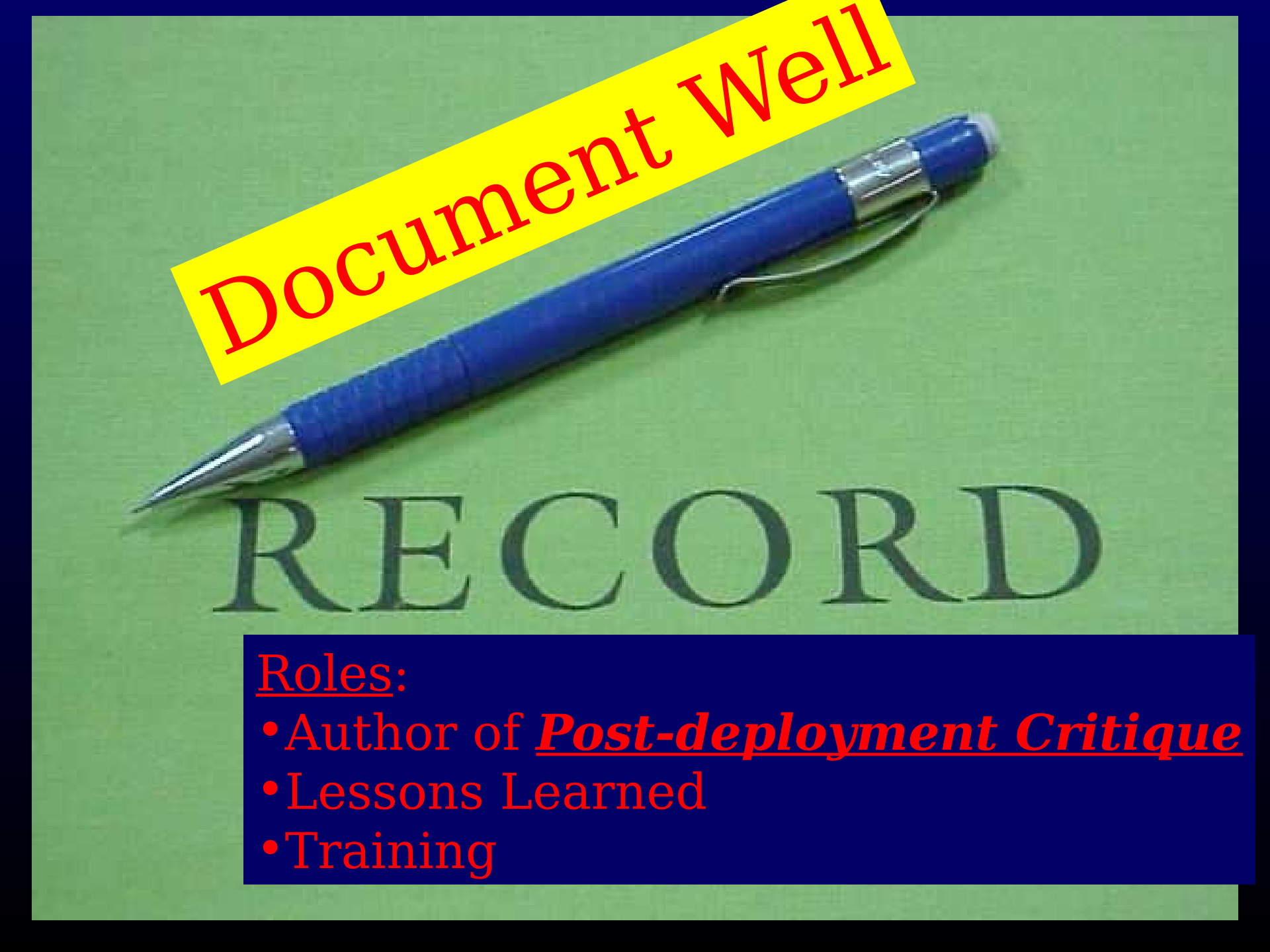
CME, Underway
USS ESSEX ICU

# Roles:
# Senior Medical Authority Afloat

- Set ARG Policy through written Guidelines in CATF Surg SOP
- ARG Blood Program
- Medical CONOPS - signed by CATF & CLF
- Set In-port Guard Ship/Sign Med Watch Bills

# Roles:
# Senior Medical Authority Afloat

- Communication
  - Keep chain of command informed
  - Know and work with each Ship CO and Marine unit commander.
- Don’t be a micro-manager.




Roles:

- Author of ***Post-deployment Critique***
- Lessons Learned
- Training

# Roles:
# OIC of FST

**Leader**
**Manager**
**Mentor**

- OPTAR / TADTAR
- Personnel Evaluations / FitReps
- Training Records
- Coordinate workup training, hosp commitments, ARG-MEU workup schedule

# Roles:
# Med Staff Officer to Line Commanders

- Similar to role of “numbered” staff officer
- Know, understand the mission
- Know the right people
- Attend all the meetings
- Insure Medical is part of all planning
- Write the Med. Annex to OPLAN

# Roles:
# Medical Regulator

- Understand Comm.  Know every possible means of Communication
- Port Directories
- Know the Medevac system (USAF, USTRANSCOM)
- Know Decedent Affairs
- Know transportation assets and alternatives

# Role Conflicts

- Senior Medical Authority Afloat (SMAA) vs. OIC of FST

- SMAA vs. Physician/Clinician

# Take home

- Important job
- Multifaceted
- Make of it what you will
  - Wide latitude
  - Creativity
  - Areas of interest
- Job where you can make a difference

USS WASP LHD 1
Commissioned July 89